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BELIEVES HUNCHAK-RAMGAVAR SPLIT IS PERMANENT

The hitherto operative "united front" against the Armenian Revolutionary Federation $\sqrt{\mathrm{Dashnaks}}$, organized by the Ramgavar and Hunchak parties, has at last been shattered as a result of internal dissension. The recent, unrestrained Hunchak attacks on the Ramgavar Party leadership for adopting a new middle-ofthe-road policy show conclusively that any alliance between the forces of Communism and political opportunism in Armenian life is a precarious one, indeed.

The Hunchaks have accused the Ramgavar Party of collaborating with the Dashnaks, plotting against the Armenian Church, and throwing its weight in favor of the "heinous attempt to discredit the government of Soviet Armenia" in the eyes of the Armenian people. According to the Hunchaks, the Ramgavar Party is largely responsible for the latest series of Dashnak victories in the Middle East, in France, and in the US.

The Ramgavar press has vigorously denied these charges and has hurled counteraccusations at the Hunchak leaders. The former points to the fact that in the Lebanese parliamentary elections, the Hunchak Party violated its agreement with the Ramgavars and, at the last moment, announced its own candidates, thus disrupting the united front and virtually assuring a Dashnak victory.

The Ramgavars stress, above all, that they have assumed neither an Eastern nor a Western orientation. They claim rather to have embraced the principles of the third force. Their objective is to achieve a spirit of cooperation and solidarity between the people of Soviet Armenic and the Armenians abroad.

Out of this maze of conflicting charges, one fact emerges in a clear light: the split between the Hunchak and Ramgavar parties is by no means a transitory affair. The existing antagonism, born of internal strife and jealousies, suggests a permanent break. And the Armenian people will fare the better for it. These developments strike an encouraging note, inasmuch as Communist infiltration into every sphere of organized Armenian life is meeting increasingly stiffer barriers.

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